

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for communicating with an external device, comprising:
a display; and
a customizable share menu that is displayable on the display and which
comprises a plurality of selectable icons that respectively correspond to selected tasks or
actions that may be performed by a user, and which initiate a through connection with
the external device, and, when selected, cause the selected task or action to be performed
on the external device in a preprogrammed manner;
wherein the external device communicates identifying information to the system
that identifies the external device and its capabilities, and in response, the system
configures the share menu according to the capabilities of the external device;
and wherein, in response to selecting one of the one or more selectable icons to
perform a desired task, the system checks whether the selection that has been made
matches the capabilities of the connected external device, and if the selection matches the
external device capabilities, performs the desired task by communicating between the
user device and the external device.
2. The system recited in Claim 1 which comprises a digital camera.
3. The system recited in Claim 1 wherein the tasks are selected from a group
consisting of printing, e-mailing, archiving and downloading data from the system.
4. The system recited in Claim 1 wherein the external device comprises a
printer.
5. The system recited in Claim 1 wherein the external device comprises a
computer.
6. The system recited in Claim 1 wherein the external device comprises a
wireless telephone.

7. A method comprising the steps of;
 configuring a user device to have a share menu that is displayable on a display of
 the user device and which comprises one or more selectable icons that correspond to
 selected tasks or actions that may be performed by a user;
 5 connecting the user device to an external device;
 communicating identifying information from the external device to the user
 device that identifies the external device and its capabilities;
 configuring the share menu according to the capabilities of the external device
 selecting one of the one or more selectable icons to perform a desired task;
 10 checking whether the selection that has been made matches the capabilities of the
 connected external device; and
 if the selection matches the external device capabilities, performing the desired
 task by communicating between the user device and the external device.
8. The method recited in Claim 7 wherein the step of communicating uses a
 predetermined connection protocol.
9. The method recited in Claim 7 wherein the step of communicating uses a file
 system.
10. The method recited in Claim 7 wherein the device comprises a digital
 camera.
11. The method recited in Claim 7 wherein the tasks are selected from a group
 consisting of printing, e-mailing, archiving and downloading data from the system.
12. The method recited in Claim 7 wherein the external device comprises a
 printer.
13. The method recited in Claim 7 wherein the external device comprises a
 computer.
14. The method recited in Claim 7 wherein the external device comprises a
 wireless telephone.

15. A system for communicating with an external device, comprising:
a display; and

5 customizable displayable sharing means that is presentable on the display and which comprises a plurality of selectable icons that respectively correspond to selected tasks or actions that may be performed by a user, for initiating a through connection with the external device, and for causing a selected task or action to be performed on the external device in a preprogrammed manner.

16. The system recited in Claim 15 wherein the external device communicates identifying information to the system that identifies the external device and its capabilities, and in response, the system configures the share menu according to the capabilities of the external device.

17. The system recited in Claim 15 wherein, in response to selecting one of the one or more selectable icons to perform a desired task, the system checks whether the selection that has been made matches the capabilities of the connected external device, and if the selection matches the external device capabilities, performs the desired task by
5 communicating between the user device and the external device.